



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814

916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900

For Immediate Release
September 18, 2001

**ATTORNEY GENERAL ASHCROFT ANNOUNCES THE FORMATION OF
ANTI-TERRORISM TASK FORCES IN U.S. ATTORNEY OFFICES**

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA -- United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced Attorney General John D. Ashcroft has directed every U. S. Attorney district to establish an Anti-Terrorism Task Force. These task forces will coordinate the dissemination of information and the development of investigative and prosecutorial strategy in dealing with terrorism throughout the country. The formation of these task forces provides the operational foundation for a concerted national assault against terrorism.

"The threat that seemed fairly remote to most Americans seven days ago is now felt in every heart and in every home in the United States. I have directed every United States Attorney to commit all available resources and manpower to our national mission against terrorism" said Ashcroft. "This system will provide law enforcement with a comprehensive and seamless approach to attack terrorism within our borders."

United States Attorney Vincent stated: "We will enthusiastically comply with General Ashcroft's directive, and will commit all available resources and personnel to address the issue of terrorism. For several years, this district has had in place a Joint Terrorism Task Force made up of federal and state agencies. This has proved to be an effective vehicle to deal with acts of terrorism in the past, and we will continue to utilize it to address any terrorist threats that might arise in the future."

"I have directed Doug Hendricks, an experienced prosecutor, to serve as the Anti-Terrorism Coordinator for the this district," Vincent added. Representatives from federal law enforcement agencies as well as primary state and local police representatives who are members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force will meet again in the near future. Agencies represented on the task force will include the FBI, INS, DEA, Marshals Service, Customs Service, Secret Service, ATF, Postal Inspection Service, and the IRS's Criminal Investigative Division. Each Anti-Terrorism Coordinator will coordinate with a National Anti-Terrorism Coordinator, as assigned by region of the country, in the Terrorism and Violent Crime Section of the Criminal Division. National coordinators will be responsible for integrating regional activities into the Department's national anti-terrorism strategy.

The creation of these task forces will serve several purposes. First, each task force will act as a conduit for information about suspected terrorists between the federal and local agencies. The intelligence obtained will then be disseminated through these task forces to the local law enforcement officials who can assist in monitoring terrorist networks on the local level. Second, each district task force will serve as a coordinating body for implementing the operational plan for the prevention of terrorism. Third, the Anti-Terrorism Task Force in each district will serve as a standing organizational structure for a coordinated response to a terrorist incident occurring in that district. The Department of Justice will provide clear guidance to each Anti-Terrorism Task Force on an ongoing basis and will detail the operational plan for terrorism prevention and provide briefings about the terrorist activities in each region of the country.

###